



## Spring 2000

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## 'Glory Daze' returns to BA July 1

When Broken Arrow's Parks & Recreation Director Scott Esmond was talking to one of the department's "veterans," David Blue, about why the City did not have its own 4th of July celebration, the right ears just happened to be tuned in to the conversation.

"You want a 4th of July celebration?" said local civic leader John Ayers. "Have I got a deal for you!"

Ayers, an executive with First National Bank who's been in on the planning and marketing over several major projects in the city, had been wanting an Independence Day celebration centered around families since he came to Broken Arrow. Whenever talk got around to planning such a celebration, however, it eventually fizzled – just like a firecracker with a bad fuse.

This time the right people got involved, and the result was "Glory Daze," a spectacular celebration last summer which drew an estimated 40,000 people to the Indian Springs Sports Complex to watch one of the largest fireworks displays in northeastern Oklahoma.

This year Ayers and Blue and Esmond are working together again, and when the fireworks begin filling the skies over the Arkansas River on the night of Saturday, July 1, the celebration promises to be bigger and grander than ever. Broken Arrow had not had a city-sponsored Independence Day celebration for many, many years. With so many major fireworks displays being held within a short drive of Broken Arrow, and with the cost of staging one of those displays so high, it was simply more of a challenge than most wanted to tackle.

Ayers, recently named the BA Elks Lodge Citizen of the Year and winner of one of the state's highest honors for partnering with public schools, saw no reason to think "small" when it came to honoring the independence of this nation. He and Blue worked long and hard on the overall design for the event, with full cooperation from Esmond and City officials. Then Ayers went to work getting sponsorships for the big day and night – money.

"It takes a lot of money to get a professional, proven pyrotechnics company to come in and put together the kind of show we wanted for Broken Arrow," said Ayers. "But we wanted more than a fireworks show. We wanted an event that would be fun for the entire family."

The major concern at Indian Springs was traffic. Vehicles were not allowed up 145th E. Ave. (Aspen) the night of the event. There was no room to park and still have spots for folks to spread their blankets, put out their lawn chairs and enjoy the program. So the City worked with Broken Arrow and Union public schools in providing school buses that shuttled people in from selected sites throughout the City.

"One of the entertainment acts that afternoon ran about 30 minutes long," said Blue, who is the Director of Special Events for the Broken Arrow Parks & Recreation Dept. "That threw the start of the fireworks display about 30 minutes late.

"But it ended up being a benefit, as we were able to get several more busloads of people into the park. We could have used even more buses, as it turns out. We had no way of knowing, since this was our first year."

Blue and workers in the Parks Dept. spent hours and hours of time in preparing for the event, and more hours cleaning up afterwards. But it was all worth it. "We have been overwhelmed since last September by people wanting to be a part of our Independence Day celebration this year," Blue pointed out.

"We hope to double our list of food vendors. We'll have some great entertainment. We'll improve the shuttle system and security at the shuttle sites. There will once again be no alcoholic beverages or coolers permitted. And no picnic baskets. We won't even permit those on the shuttle buses. This is Broken Arrow's Independence Day celebration, and we want to be sure it remains a family event."

The celebration is held on Saturday so that families can come out and enjoy the entertainment, the atmosphere and the fireworks without having to worry about getting up and going to work the next day. Activities will begin about 4 p.m. and the fireworks as soon after dark as possible. So plan on coming out to Glory Daze as Broken Arrow continues its family-centered salute to America's Independence.

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## Tuesdays in the Park offer variety

Broken Arrow's Tuesday Nights in Central Park series this year will take families on a musical tour from Gospel to Big Bands to a Celtic showcase, with a stop in between for a special appearance by the Northeastern State University "Sizzlin' Summer Showcase Revue."

The series was created last summer by the Broken Arrow Parks Department as a way of utilizing the City's new mobile stage, the "Showmobile." The four summer evening concerts will be held June 6, 13, 20 and 27, starting at 7 p.m. and usually winding up about 9 p.m. There is no admission charge for the concerts. You simply bring a blanket or a lawn chair and enjoy these very special evenings in Broken Arrow's Central Park.

The concerts are presented by the City of Broken Arrow and the Broken Arrow Arts & Humanities Council with a special partnership this summer with NSU. Programs were selected and put together by the Arts & Humanities Council based on response from City residents after last year's opening series.

The Gospel program on June 6 will feature "The Covenant," men's quartet; the Church of Christ A Capella Singers; Sonny Reynolds, Charlotte Johns, Jordanettes," "Protégé" and Harvinger's Quartet. Scott Senter will direct the "Big Band Sound" on June 13. Then on June 20 NSU will bring The River City Players & Downtown Hoedown Players to Central Park for a very special night of music and fun. The "Sizzlin' Summer Showcase Revue" is one of the highlights of the summer in Tahlequah, home of the NSU main campus. The University is due to open a branch campus in Broken Arrow in the fall of 2001. The final program of the summer will be June 27 when the Celtic Showcase comes to town.



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## City swimming pools open Memorial Day

Broken Arrow's Family Aquatics Center may not be completed in time for a full summer of fun, but that won't prevent area swimmers from cooling off in the city's pools.

The new center is expected to be finished in late summer. It will be one of the finest of its kind in northeastern Oklahoma.

Until it's ready for family fun, however, the City's pools at Central Park, Haskell and Country Aire will be open as usual. The pools open over the Memorial Day weekend (May 27). Starting the first week in June the pools will follow schedules which will have them open six days each week.

Starting June 5 Central will be closed on Mondays, Country Aire on Tuesdays and Haskell on Wednesdays. Hours on the other days of the week will be 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. for Central and Country Aire and 1 to 6 for Haskell.

Cost for swimmers is \$1 for students and \$1.50 for adults at Haskell and Country Aire and \$1.50 for students and \$2 for adults at Central.

Swimming lessons will begin June 5 and will be provided Monday through Saturday until mid-July. The cost is \$35 for each of the six-day sessions, which are held in mornings. The 45-minute lessons are open to 6-month olds and older.



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## Fair Housing program helps home buyers

**“Housing for All Through Justice for All.”**

That national theme for the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 is more than just words. Broken Arrow’s City Council proclaimed April as “Fair Housing Month,” putting an emphasis on the program which provides financial help for families with low to moderate income who are first-time homebuyers and those homeowners who would like to make improvements to their residences.

Through funding the City and other agencies receive, home buying is made easier for those who normally would have little chance to become homeowners. Funds are also available for families who own their homes, but can’t afford badly needed rehabilitation.

Broken Arrow, through its participation in the Metropolitan Tulsa HOME Consortium, “aspires to provide housing for all individuals and families of very low to moderate income, as well as special groups such as the homeless, disabled and AIDS victims.

As examples, for the deferred payment loans, family household income must not exceed \$15,800 for one person, \$18,050 for two, \$20,300 for three, etc. (up to \$29,750 for eight). The principal repayment loans are limited to those with a maximum income of \$20,516 for one in the family, \$23,441 for two, \$26,366 for three, up to \$38,675 for eight. And the standard repayment loans are available to those with a maximum income of \$25,250 for one, \$28,850 for two, \$32,450 for three and on up to \$47,600 for eight.

For information on first-time homebuyers assistance, call Community Action Project of Tulsa County at 382-3200. If the home is in Wagoner County, call Community Action Resource & Development at 341-5000. Those interested in owner occupied housing rehabilitation should contact the office of the Administrative Services Director at the Broken Arrow City Hall, 259-8418, for an application. It is available only to those living in city limits.

Brochures with complete household income limits and explanations of the types of loans are available in the front lobby at the City Municipal Building.

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## Free Trash Bags, Spring Cleaning Day

Cards went in the mail April 1 to all Broken Arrow residents notifying them of the availability of free trash bags from April 17 through April 29 (with the exception of Sunday, April 23). Each

card can be redeemed for 200 heavy duty trash bags (four rolls of 50 each) at the City Maintenance Center, 1700 W. Detroit, during those days (9 a.m. to 6 p.m.).

For those residents physically unable to drive to the Maintenance Center, the trash bags may be delivered to the home. They may also be picked up at the Water Department in City Hall after April 29.

In a related program, Saturday, April 29, has been designated "Spring Clean-up Day" in Broken Arrow. City residents may bring their tree limbs, branches, old furniture, etc., to the Maintenance Center and unload it there free of charge. However, no hazardous waste materials will be taken, nor will old tires, batteries, air conditioners, refrigerators, etc.

Hours will be 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Both of these programs are provided by the City as part of a long-standing commitment to keeping Broken Arrow a more beautiful, livable place in which to raise a family.

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## Rooster Days bring in top groups

Big-name bands from the Country and Western and gospel music fields will be featured this year at Broken Arrow's annual Rooster Days celebration. Rooster Days will be held May 11-14 (Thursday through Sunday) and will once again be centered around the Central Park and Community Center.

"Ricochet" will be the featured band on "Country Night" Friday. They'll be performing at 8 p.m.

Saturday the focus will be on KXOJ's Gospel Band Parade, highlighted by "4 Him" at 8 p.m.

The annual Rooster Days Parade will begin at 10 a.m., and the Miss Chick contest will be held Saturday evening. Sunday's highlight will be the naming of the KBEZ "Mother of the Year." Last year was the first time this contest was held, with Belva Lester winning the honor. The "Bopcats" will be performing both before and after the contest.

Activities get underway Thursday at 4:30 and will run through 11 p.m. with carnival rides, food booths, and plenty of activities. The carnival rides, food court and more will resume Friday from 4:30 to 12 midnight. That will also be the first night for some of the big entertainment acts.

Throughout the weekend there will be local entertainers, from small children to adults and from dancers to singers and more, performing. Many of those acts will be doing their thing on the Showmobile, the City's mobile stage purchased through funds from the 1997 bond issue. The Showmobile, with its professional sound system, will be set up as the "Small Stage," along the

north side of the Community Center. The Miss Chick Contest and Mother of the Year contest will also be held there.

Rooster Days is a combined effort of the Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce and the City of Broken Arrow. The City is a major financial contributor to the event, and also provides invaluable help in preparing Central Park and the Community Center for the thousands and thousands of visitors.

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## Loss of Internet taxes hurts cities

**“Moratorium.” “Studies.” “E-commerce.”**

Those words individually don’t paint much of a picture for the average business owner or citizen in America. Put them together, however, and they paint a complex picture, with some darker tones. The loss of sales tax revenue through sales over the Internet has already had a profound impact on small business in America – and is beginning to be felt by city and state governments which rely on sales taxes to provide so many of their services to residents.

The federal government has exempted sales on the Internet from state and local sales taxes. Imagine trying to sell your home when the family across the street is selling theirs – and being able to offer a deal which includes no taxes! Which house is going to sell?

More and more Americans are shopping and buying over the Internet. While avoiding sales taxes is not a prime motivator for most, it is a reality that city and state governments, as well as owners of businesses which do have to pay those taxes, are faced with daily.

Furthermore, these sales taxes have been voted for by the citizens, and now the federal government is blocking their collection. Rather than address the problem and develop a system which can provide relief to those governments and small businesses which are the heart of American cities, the federal government has chosen instead to conduct more “studies” and proposes to extend a moratorium on collecting such sales taxes for at least another five years.

City officials estimate that Broken Arrow has lost as much as \$170,000 in sales tax revenue last year alone. That is the equivalent of four police officers or firefighters. Broken Arrow, which battles to keep shopping dollars at home and not in Tulsa, now must find a way to overcome the sales tax dollars lost to on-line shopping as well.

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